

10¢
NO. 1

TALES OF
TERROR

TALES OF

HORROR



The
BEAST
From
The
DEEP!



WEB COMIC
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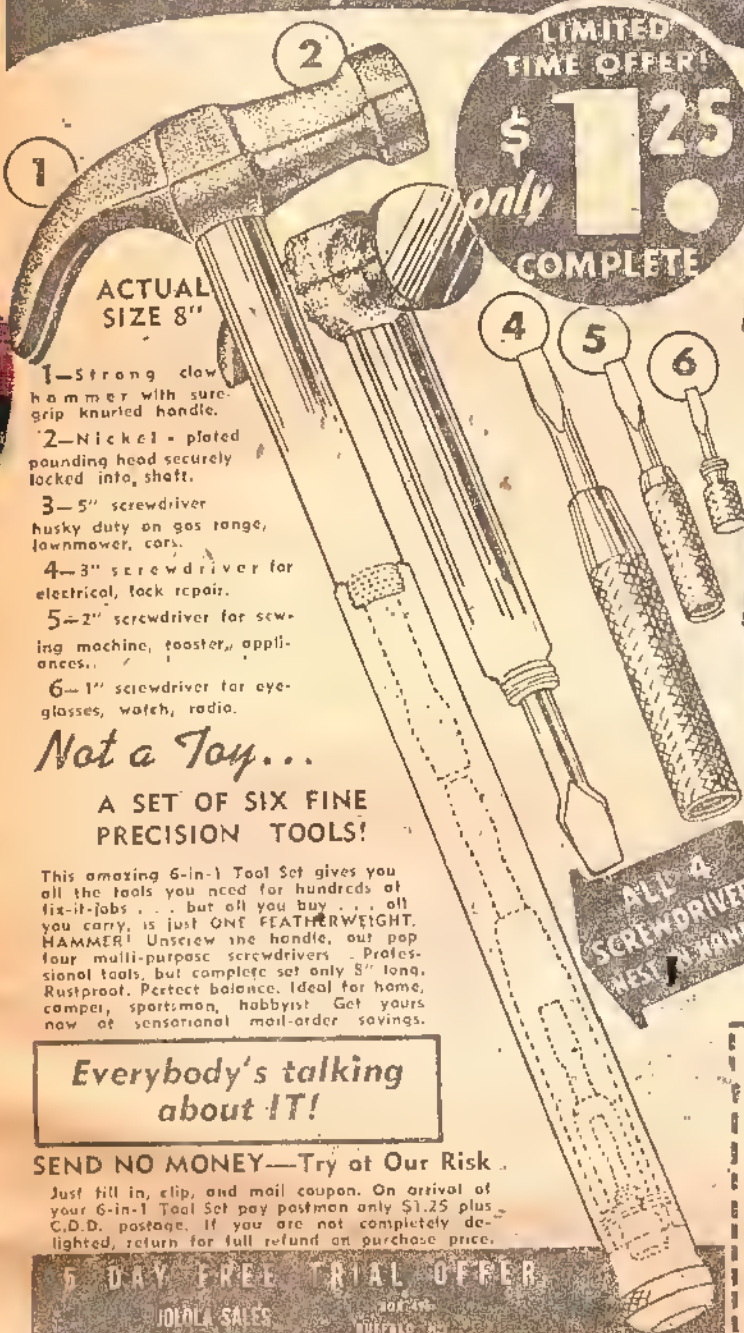
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- 3—5" screwdriver husky duty on gas range, lawnmower, car.
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THE MAN WHO TRICKED THE DEVIL!

A
TALE OF
HORROR

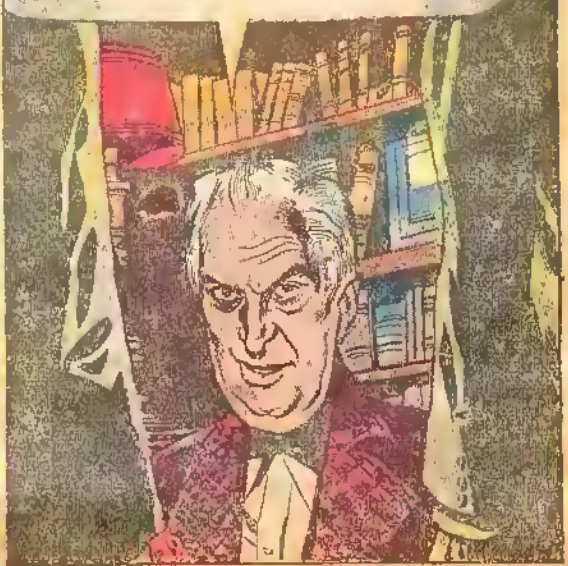
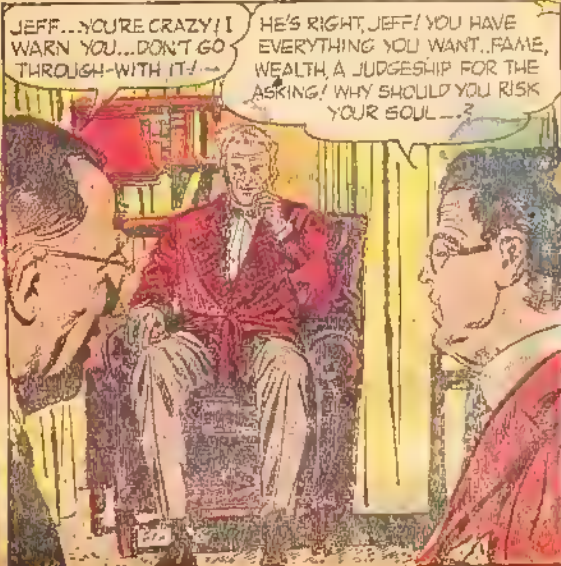
"LOTS OF RUMORS BEEN FLOATING AROUND LATELY ABOUT A MAN WHO TRICKED ME... I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO GET THE 'INSIDE-DOPE'. PULL YOUR CHAIRS CLOSER... MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE... NO NEED TO SHIVER NOW, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHIVERING AFTER I'VE FINISHED MY STORY..."

ANYBODY WHO CAN READ A HEADLINE HAS HEAR OF JEFF HAGSTONE... THE WORLD'S GREATEST LAWYER. WELL... MY STORY STARTS IN HAGSTONE'S DARKENED STUDY...

JEFF... YOU'RE CRAZY! I WARN YOU... DON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! --

HE'S RIGHT, JEFF! YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT... FAME, WEALTH, A JUDGESHIP FOR THE ASKING! WHY SHOULD YOU RISK YOUR SOUL --?

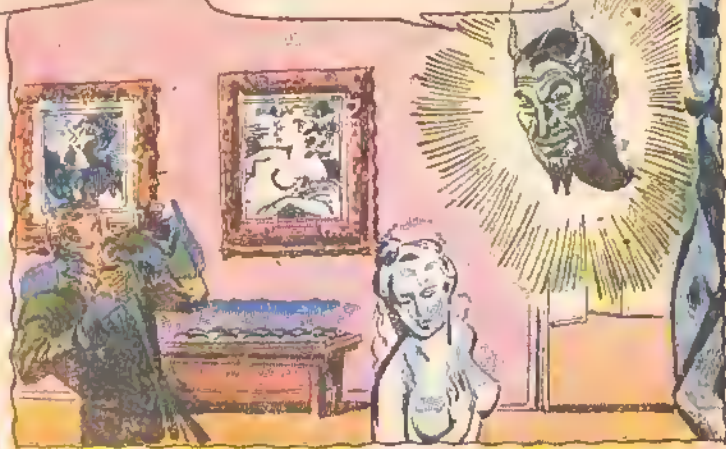
BECAUSE, GENTLEMEN I AM THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WITH THE PRECISE COMBINATION OF BRAINS AND BACKGROUND THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO TRICK THE DEVIL! --



JEFF, IT CAN'T BE DONE! THE DEVIL NEVER MAKES GOOD ON HIS BARGAINS. I REMEMBER TED MAXWELL? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY, HAVE YOU? KNOW WHY? BECAUSE HE TRIED TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE DEVIL!

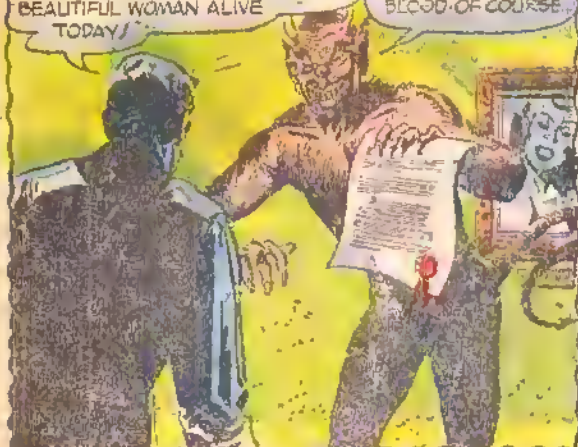
TED WAS OBSESSED ALL HIS LIFE WITH FINDING A WOMAN OF FLAWLESS BEAUTY. HE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, SPENT MILLIONS... AT LAST IN DESPERATION, HE CALLED ON THE DEVIL...

AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. MAXWELL!



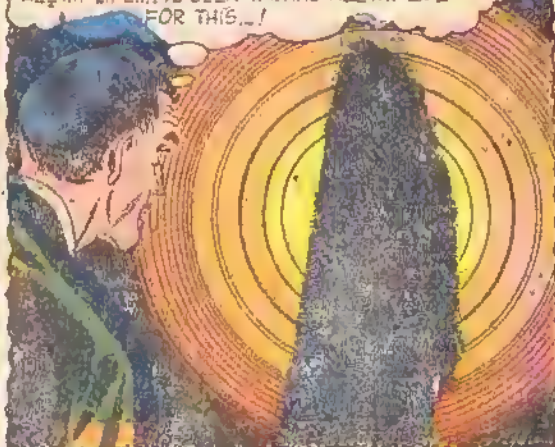
I-I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL WANT IN EXCHANGE... BUT I AM WILLING! TAKE MY SOUL... BUT GIVE ME THE DAUGHTER OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE TODAY!

THAT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED! JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE... IN BLOOD, OF COURSE.



...THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY SHROUDED IN DARKNESS! BUT THEN... IN A CORNER... SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE INSIDE A SWIRLING MIST... APPEARED A GIRL...

ALL MY LIFE... I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE FOR THIS...!



TED TIP-TOED FORWARD, HIS FINGERS TREMBLED AS HE CAREFULLY LIFTED THE VEIL...



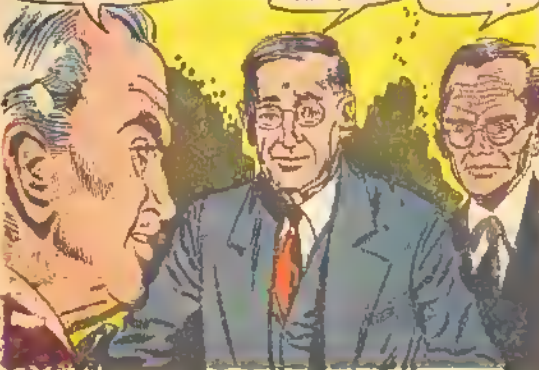
AEEEE! A LEPER!! SHE IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU ASK FOR, MR. MAXWELL... THE DAUGHTER OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD! AND YOU TOUCHED HER... HEH... HEH!



VERY INTERESTING... BUT WHAT CHANCE DID A HEAD-IN-THE-CLOUDS DILLETANTE LIKE ME HAVE WITH THE DEVIL? I HAVE THE EQUIPMENT! I CAN HANDLE HIM!

WHAT ABOUT BULLOFF, THE LITMANIAN DIPLOMAT? HE WAS KNOWN AS THE HARDEST BARGAINER IN THE WORLD! DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

TELL HIM THE STORY, JEFF MUST BE DISSUADED!



"POWER WAS WHAT BULLOFF WANTED! SO... HE WAS EAGER TO EXCHANGE HIS SOUL FOR THE PREMIERSHIP OF LITHANIA..."

JUST SIGN HERE... IN BLOOD, MR. BULLOFF...



THE BLOOD WAS STILL WET ON THE CONTRACT WHEN BULLOFF HEARD BLACK WINDS RUSHING INSIDE HIS HEAD... AND THE ROOM BEGAN TO TILT CRAZILY....



"WHEN BULLOFF CAME TO..."

THE PREMIER'S OFFICE... THIS MEDAL PINNED TO MY JACKET... I'M THE PREMIER OF LITHANIA!



TODAY I WILL ISSUE MY FIRST PROCLAMATION. EVERY YEAR HENCEFORTH THIS DAY SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS BULLOFF DAY, AND...

WHO DARE ENTER THE PREMIER'S PRIVATE OFFICE WITHOUT BEING ANNOUNCED...?



"THE DEVIL HAD CHEATED AGAIN! FOR BULLOFF'S UNANNOUNCED VISITOR WAS A POLITICAL ASSASSIN, AND SO BULLOFF'S PREMIERSHIP LASTED EXACTLY FORTY-TWO SECONDS..."

DESPOT, TYRANT... DIE!

AAAAARGH!!



TWO PRETTY GRIM TALES OF ME AT MY BEST, EH...? BUT JEFF HAGSTONE WOULD NOT BE DISSUADED...

THEN HE RETURNED TO HIS STUDY AND PUT THROUGH A CALL FOR ME...

FOR THE LAST TIME, REMEMBER THIS... NEITHER MAYWELL NOR BULOFF HAD MY LEGAL BACKGROUND. COME BACK TOMORROW NIGHT, AND I GUARANTEE YOU THE SURPRISE OF YOUR LIVES!



RISE, DEVIL, RISE... FROM THE DEPTHS BELOW! RISE, DEVIL, RISE... THERE IS EVIL TO SOW!



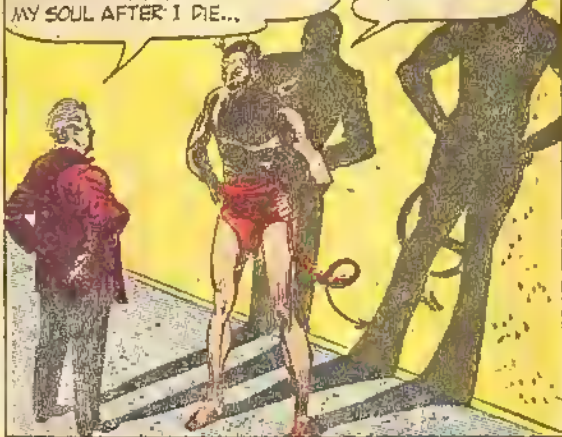
AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. HAGSTONE!



HAGSTONE WAS BRUSQUE, BUSINESS-LIKE. IN CLEAR LEGAL LANGUAGE, HE TOLD ME JUST WHAT HE WANTED...

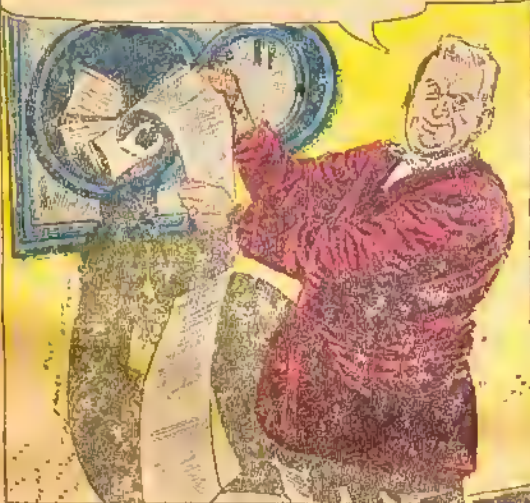
...TEN BILLION DOLLARS, DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SOUL AFTER I DIE...

HMM... THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.

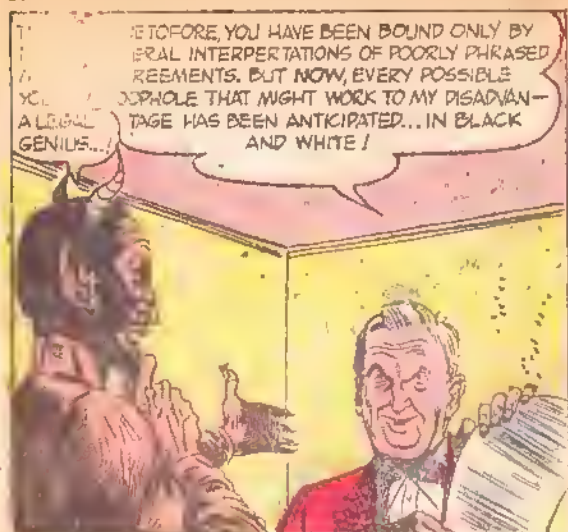


I HAVE ONE IMPORTANT STIPULATION. THE CONTRACT FORM MUST BE MINE.... NOT YOURS!

CONFOUND IT! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TANGLE WITH THE GREATEST LAWYER IN THE WORLD! YOU MEAN TO TIE MY HANDS WITH A MILLION DIFFERENT PROHIBITORY CLAUSES!

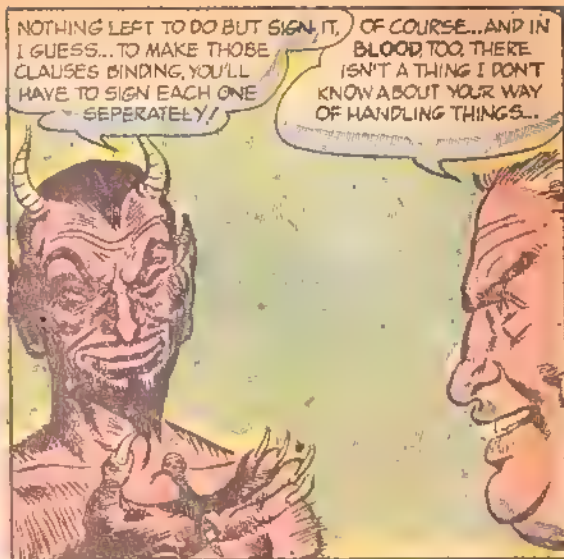


AFTER I SKIMMED THROUGH THE FIRST FEW THOUSAND CLAUSES...



BEFORE, YOU HAVE BEEN BOUND ONLY BY
ERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF POORLY PHRASED
REEMENTS. BUT NOW, EVERY POSSIBLE
YOL... LOophole THAT MIGHT WORK TO MY DISADVANTAGE
A LEGAL GENIUS...

BEFORE, YOU HAVE BEEN BOUND ONLY BY
ERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF POORLY PHRASED
REEMENTS. BUT NOW, EVERY POSSIBLE
YOL... LOophole THAT MIGHT WORK TO MY DISADVANTAGE
A LEGAL GENIUS... IN BLACK
AND WHITE!



NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT SIGN IT, OF COURSE...AND IN
I GUESS...TO MAKE THOSE
CLAUSES BINDING, YOU'LL
HAVE TO SIGN EACH ONE
SEPERATELY!

OF COURSE...AND IN
BLOOD, TOO. THERE
ISN'T A THING I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT YOUR WAY
OF HANDLING THINGS...

SO JEFFERY HAGSTONE BEGAN TO SIGN. IT TOOK ALMOST ALL NIGHT...AND LOTS OF BLOOD...



WHEN HIS FRIENDS CAME THE NEXT NIGHT, JEFF
HAGSTONE KEPT HIS WORD. THEY GOT THE
SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!

HE'S
DEAD! SEE HOW PALE HE IS! AND THAT DRY
OPEN WOUND ON HIS FOREARM! HE
MUST BE COMPLETELY DRAINED
OF BLOOD!

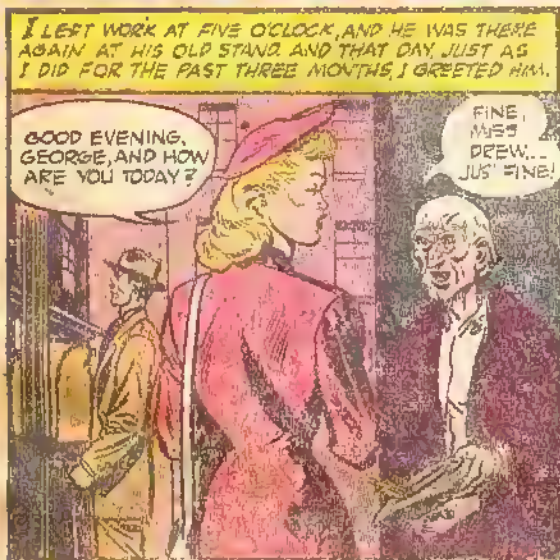
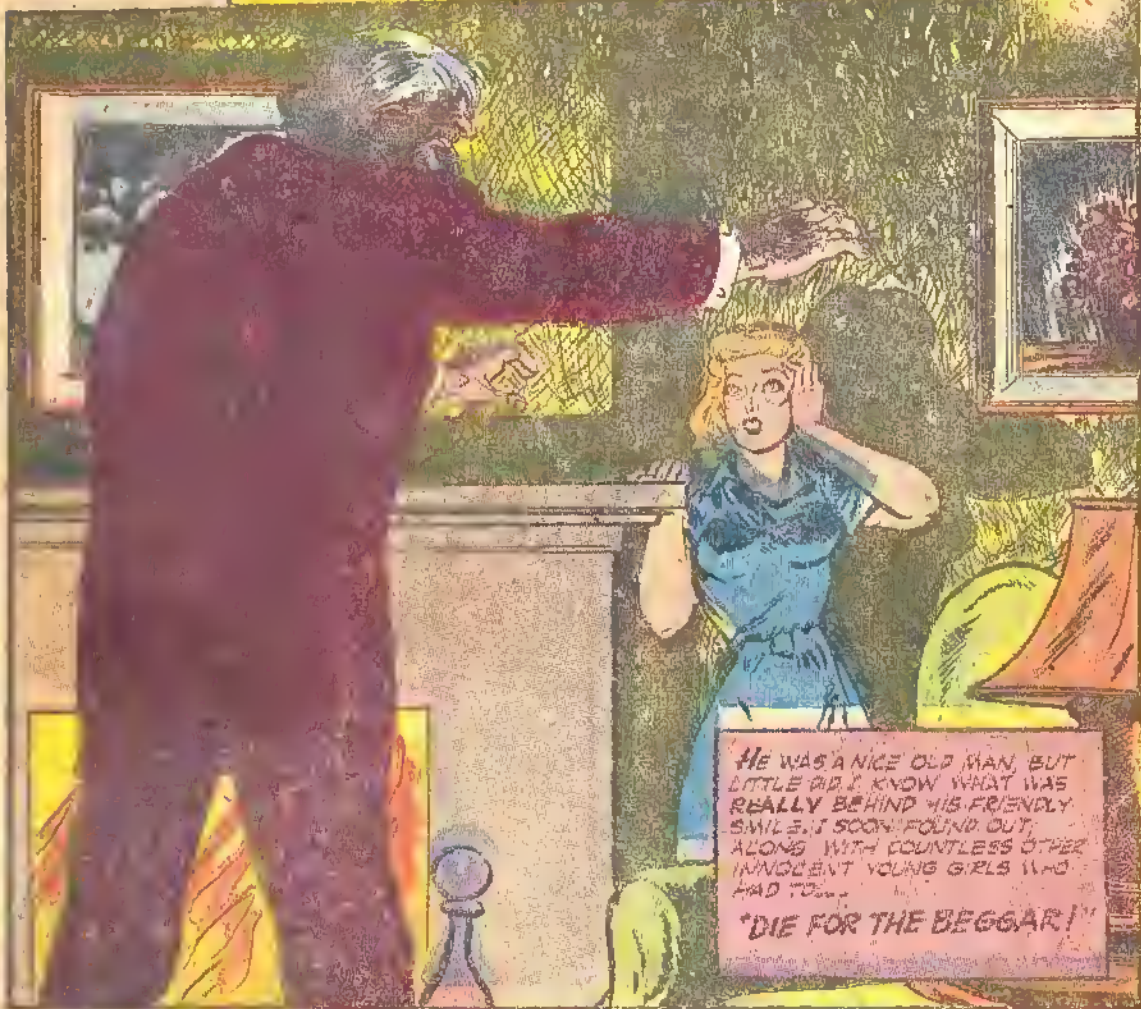


THAT'S THE STORY...
ANYBODY ELSE
WANTS TO TRY TO
TRICK ME HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH... STEP
RIGHT UP, FOLKS!
YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO LOSE BUT
YOUR SOULS...!



THE
END

DIE FOR THE BEGGAR

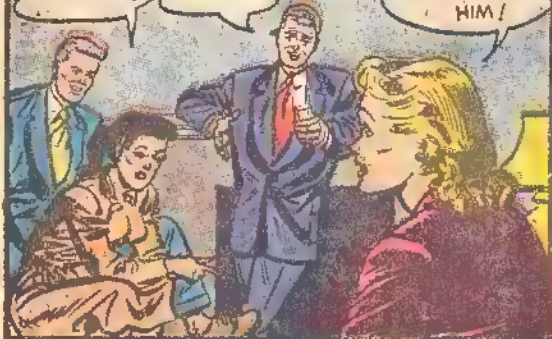


I COULDN'T FORGET GEORGE BAXTER, THE OLD
BEGGAR, AND THAT NIGHT, AT A SMALL GATHERING
WITH MY FRIENDS, THE OLD MAN DOMINATED OUR
CONVERSATION....

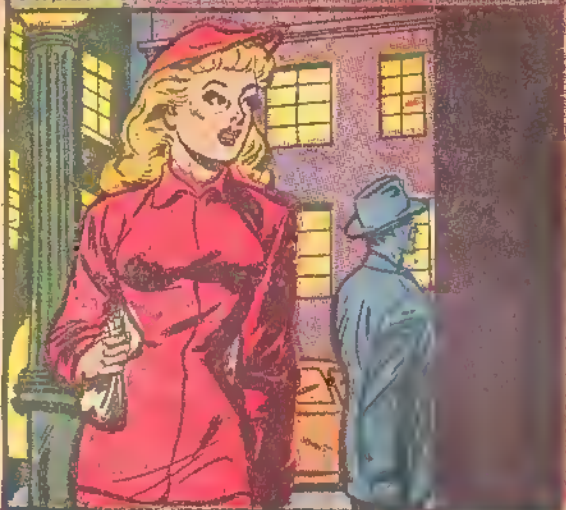
WHAT'S SO
UNUSUAL
ABOUT AN
OLD BEGGAR,
HARRIET?

AHA! MAYBE MY
FIANCEE HAS FALLEN
IN LOVE WITH THE
HANDSOME OLD
DEVIL!

BE SERIOUS,
HENRY!
I JUST...WELL,
I JUST FEEL
SORRY FOR
HIM!



THE NEXT DAY WHEN I PASSED THE BEGGAR'S
STREET CORNER HE WASN'T THERE...



ALL THE
WAY
HOME I
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
WORRY
ABOUT THE
OLD
BEGGAR.
WHAT
COULD
HAVE
HAPPENED
TO
HIM?

AFTER ALL, HE'S
79 YEARS OLD!
MAYBE THE POOR
MAN DIED!



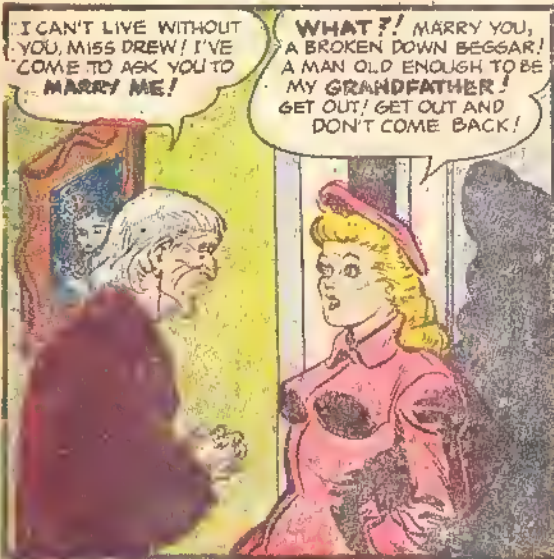
I WAS
TOO TIRED
TO THINK
ANY MORE.
I TURNED
THE LOCK,
OPENED
THE DOOR;
AND...

GEORGE, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE?



I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
YOU, MISS DREW! I'VE
COME TO ASK YOU TO
MARRY ME!

WHAT?! MARRY YOU,
A BROKEN DOWN BEGGAR!
A MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE
MY GRANDFATHER!
GET OUT! GET OUT AND
DON'T COME BACK!



BUT GEORGE DID COME BACK THE FOLLOWING EVEN-
ING AND HE PROPOSED AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME HIS
PROPOSAL WAS MORE INTERESTING...ABOUT TWO
MILLION DOLLARS WORTH...

...AND WHEN I DIE,
MY DEAR, ALL THIS
WILL BE YOURS! YOU
MUST SAY YES!

YOU-YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE
ME SOME TIME TO THINK
IT OVER, GEORGE! I NEED
SOME TIME!



I WAS ALL MIXED UP I NEEDED ADVICE. A COUPLE OF MILLION DOLLARS WAS NOTHING TO THROW OUT OF THE WINDOW... EVEN IF I HAD TO MARRY THE OLD BEGGAR... I WENT TO SEE HENRY...



I DON'T KNOW HARRIET! THERE MAY BE A CATCH THERE!

BUT THERE'S NO CATCH, HENRY! I CHECKED UP ON THE OLD BEGGAR. HE'S GOT AN ACCOUNT IN PRACTICALLY EVERY BANK IN NEW YORK!



MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! THAT'S A LOT OF DOLLS TO INHERIT WHEN YOUR DEAR, OLD "HUSBAND" DIES!

THEN WE'LL HAVE IT ALL, HENRY! HE COULDN'T LIVE MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AND IF WE GET IMPATIENT WE CAN GET OF HIM VERY EASILY!

I GAVE GEORGE MY ANSWER, AND BEFORE OUR WEDDING I MADE HIM SIGN OVER HIS FORTUNE TO ME. GEORGE DIDN'T OBJECT, BUT HE HAD A PAPER FOR ME TO SIGN...

HMMM! ACCORDING TO THIS PAPER, I WON'T GO OUT WITH OTHER MEN AS LONG AS GEORGE IS ALIVE... I WILL CARE FOR HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE! DOESN'T HURT TO SIGN AND MAKE THE OLD BOY HAPPY.



Harriet is shown signing a document while an older man (George) looks on.

AND SO WE WERE MARRIED. GEORGE TOOK ME TO HIS HOME... OUR HOME. IT FILLED ME WITH HORROR SOMETHING TERRIBLE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN... AND SOMEHOW I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO GEORGE...

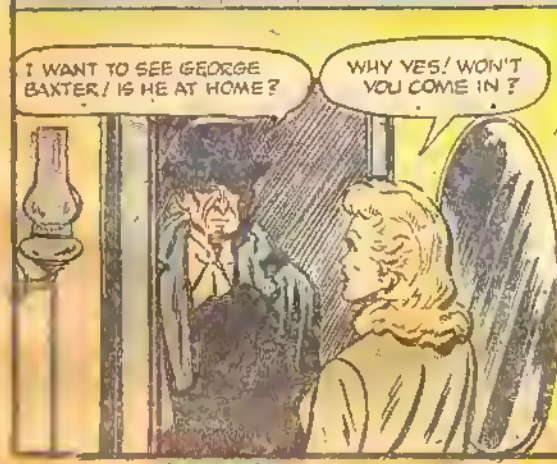


George and Harriet are standing on a porch in front of a house.

WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE, HARRIET DARLING! YOU'LL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO IT, I'M SURE.

YES, G. GEORGE. I'M SURE I WILL...

I HATED IT... I HATED EVERY MINUTE OF IT. MY NIGHTS WERE SPENT IN TEARS, REGRETTING THE DAY I EVER DECIDED TO MARRY THE UGLY OLD BEGGAR. THEN ONE NIGHT, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR...

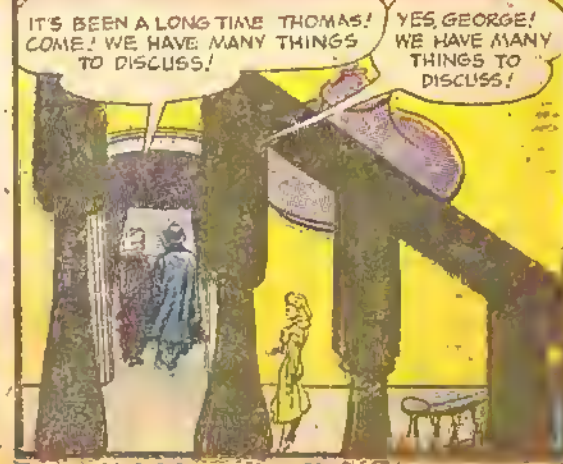


Harriet is talking to a man (Thomas) who is standing in a doorway.

I WANT TO SEE GEORGE BAXTER! IS HE AT HOME?

WHY YES! WON'T YOU COME IN?

WHEN GEORGE SAW THE TALL STRANGER, HIS FACE TURNED PALE. ALTHOUGH HE GREETED HIM CORDIALLY, I KNEW THAT GEORGE FEARED THIS STRANGE MAN. THEY WENT INTO THE LIBRARY TOGETHER...



George and Thomas are in a library. Harriet is standing in the background.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME THOMAS! COME! WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!

YES, GEORGE! WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!

SOMETHING DREADFUL WAS HAPPENING... I KNEW IT! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. I HEARD HIS VOICE... THE MAN GEORGE CALLED THOMAS

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, GEORGE! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW, DON'T YOU?

PLEASE DON'T TAKE HER FROM ME, PLEASE! HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU ENOUGH THESE PAST 350 YEARS! HAVEN'T I ALREADY PAID DEARLY FOR MY CRIME?



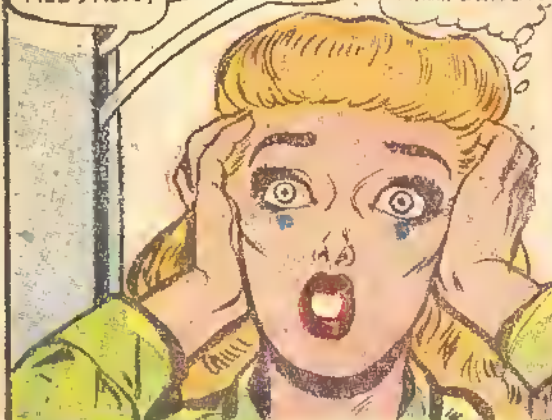
YOU DID COMMIT MURDER! HOWEVER, I AGREE... YOUR ETERNAL LIFE HAS BEEN AN UNHAPPY ONE! I WOULD BE UNHAPPY TOO, IF ALL MY BRIDES WERE TAKEN FROM ME! ALL RIGHT, GEORGE... YOU MAY HAVE THIS ONE! YOU MAY KEEP HER FOREVER! YOUR DEBT HAS BEEN PAID!



ONE MORE THING, THOMAS! KEEP HER AS YOUNG AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS SHE IS NOW! THAT'S ALL I ASK!

ALL RIGHT, GEORGE, YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED!

THIS IS INSANE! IT MUST BE A DREAM! I MUST RUN AWAY! I MUST!



I HAD TO GET AWAY, I WAS BEWILDERED, FRIGHTENED... THIS COULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. THESE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN.



THEN I THOUGHT OF HENRY. HE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO. I RAN TO HIS APARTMENT, AND TOLD HIM THE WILD STORY...

NOW, CALM DOWN, HONEY! THIS IS JUST SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE! BUT IT'S GONE FAR ENOUGH! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEFT THE OLD GUY! ...LOOK, KID... PACK MY BAGS! I'M GOING FOR MY CAR! BE READY IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, HENRY. I'M FRIGHTENED!

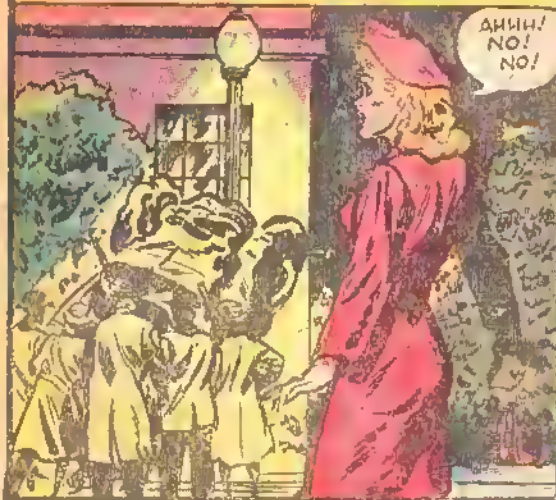


THE BAGS WERE ALL PACKED, AND I WAS READY TO LEAVE... BUT HENRY DIDN'T RETURN. TWO HOURS... THREE HOURS PASSED... NO HENRY...

HENRY! WHERE ARE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK? WHERE ARE YOU?



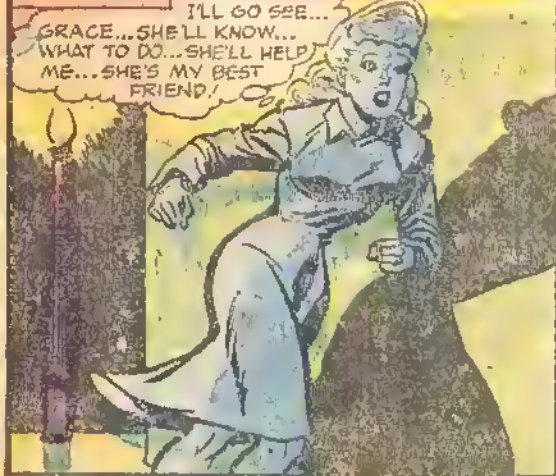
SICK WITH WORRY, I LEFT THE APARTMENT. WHEN I REACHED THE STREET I SAW IT...



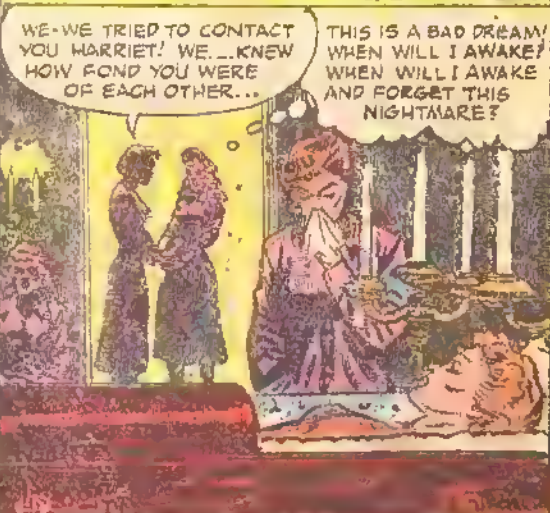
IT WAS HENRY'S CAR. I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH THE CROWD, AND THERE HE WAS... CRUSHED BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION!



I RAN AWAY. I HAD TO BE WITH SOMEONE... I HAD TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I WAS TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED.



WHEN I ARRIVED AT GRACE'S HOME, SHE WAS DEAD!



GRACE'S DEATH WAS TOO MUCH TO TAKE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN COINCIDENCE... BUT I DOUBTED IT. I LEFT NEW YORK, WENT TO CHICAGO AND MET A RICH YOUNG MAN. PERHAPS MY LUCK WAS CHANGING. I THOUGHT...



JERRY TOOK ME TO AN EXCLUSIVE DINNER CLUB. I WAS HAPPY... AND THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS BEGAN TO VANISH...



I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
TO TELL
JERRY. WOULD
HE BELIEVE
MY WEIRD
STORY?
WOULD HE
BELIEVE
THAT I WAS
MARRIED TO
A MAN 350
YEARS OLD?
BUT THEN
IT
HAPPENED!
THEY
CAME IN
WITH
GUNS...



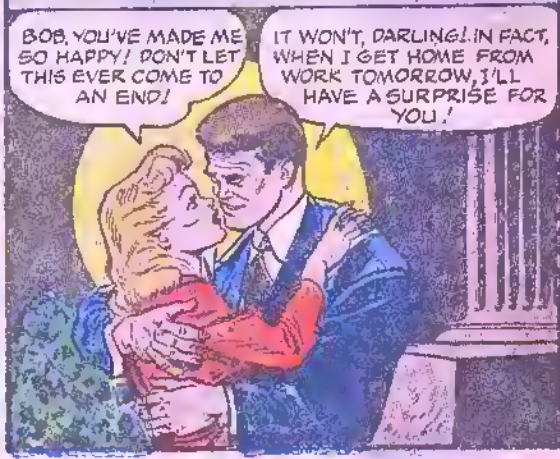
THE WOMAN'S SCREAMS UNNERVED THE HOLD-UP MEN. THEY FIRED THEIR GUNS...



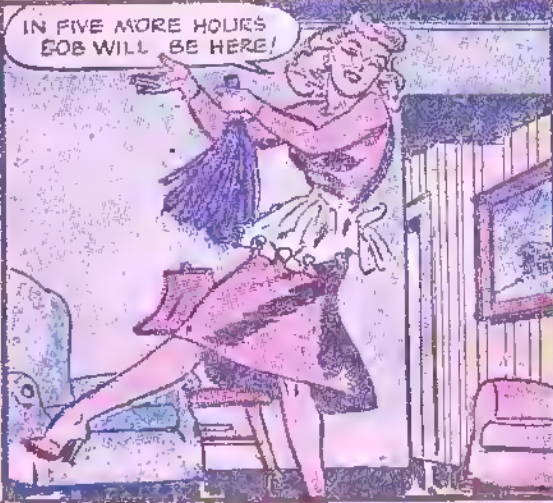
THEY SPRAYED THEIR BULLETS RECKLESSLY. JERRY FELL VICTIM. JERRY WAS DEAD!



DEATH FOLLOWED WHEREVER I WENT. I BEGAN TO DOUBT MY SANITY. NO ONE WAS SAFE AS LONG AS I WAS AROUND. I MET BOB HOLT, AND THE PICTURE BEGAN TO CHANGE...



I COULDN'T WAIT FOR BOB TO CALL FOR ME THAT EVENING. THE MINUTES DRAGGED BY...



BUT AT THAT SAME TIME, AT THE STEEL MILL, BOB HAD AN ACCIDENT. HE TRIPPED ON THE CATWALK AND FELL INTO A VAT OF MOLTEN STEEL...



BOB'S DEATH DID IT. I KNEW I COULDN'T EVER
ESCAPE. I WAS THE KISS OF DEATH, AND EVERYONE
AROUND ME WAS IN DEADLY DANGER....



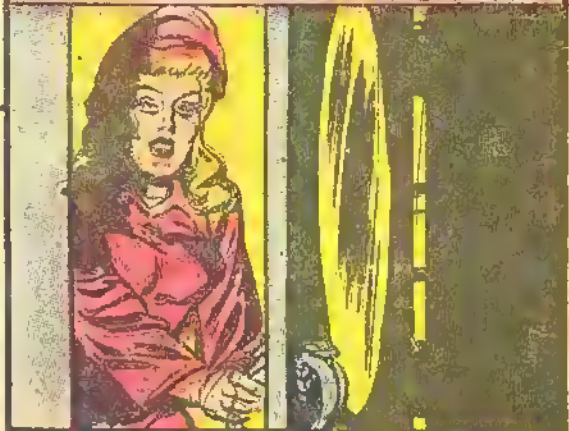
THERE WAS BUT ONE THING FOR ME TO DO. I HAD NO
ALTERNATIVE...



I HAD TO RETURN... I HAD TO RETURN...



I HAD TO RETURN TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER
KNOW... TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER KISS...



THE
END

THE BEAST FROM THE DEEP!



ROUND AND ROUND WENT THE BEAM OF THE AZORES LIGHTHOUSE. ITS FOGHORN VOICE COULD BE HEARD FOR MANY MILES. ONE NIGHT THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER HEARD AN "ECHO". IT HAD A BESTIAL REALITY THAT FRIGHTENED HIM. IT WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH IT... **THE BEAST FROM THE DEEP!**

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS THERE'D BEEN A LIGHTHOUSE ON EL MUERTE, A TINY ISLAND OFF THE AZORES...



A FEW CHANGES HAD BEEN WROUGHT IN 200 YEARS. EL MUERTE HAD A NEW BIG, WINKING, BLINKING, SWEEPING LIGHT...



AND IT HAD A FOGHORN VOICE "LIKE THE CALL OF A MONSTER."



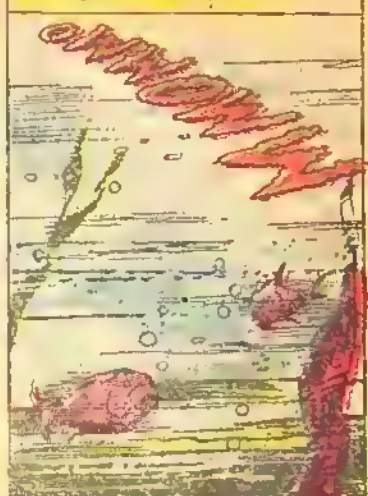
ACROSS THE SEA WENT
THE CRY, LIKE THE WAIL
OF A BEAST IN PAIN...



THE CRY WENT FAR...THE LONESOME
CRY OF A MONSTER SICK AT HEART...



THE MOAN WENT WIDE...THE
MOAN WENT DEEP...



THEN ONE NIGHT, THERE CAME
AN ECHO...



I-IT'S LIKE A VOICE
ANSWERING! ONLY DEEPER,
THROTIER...



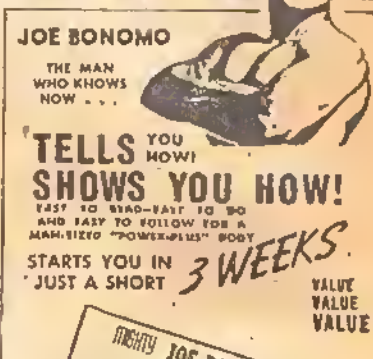
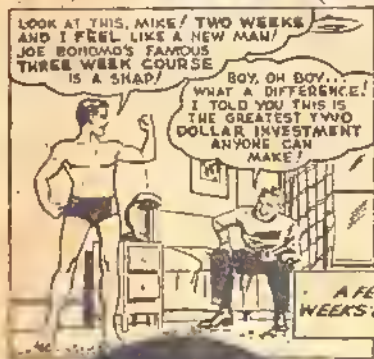
T-TH....THROTIER?



IT'S CLOSER NOW! HOW CAN AN
ECHO GET CLOSER? AM I GOING
MAD?!!



3 WEEKS \$1.98 MADE "SAD SLIM JIM" HEP!



LISTEN YOU! CUT OUT. WISHING!

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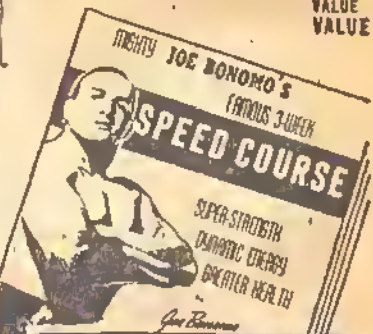
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LEARN THE FOX TROT, COUNTRY DANCES, RHUMBA, SAMBA, CALL SQUARE DANCES!

T-THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!
NOT A SHIP! NOT AN ECHO!
HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT IT IS!
I'LL TRY TO DIRECT THE BEAM!



N-NO... NOTHING! IT WAS MY
IMAGINATION! A PASSING SHIP
WITH A STRANGE, NEW FOG-
HORN... I'LL RETURN THE LAMP
TO ITS CIRCUIT...



IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.
THAT'S IT, I'M GETTING OLD.
MY MIND PLAYS TRICKS ON
ME.



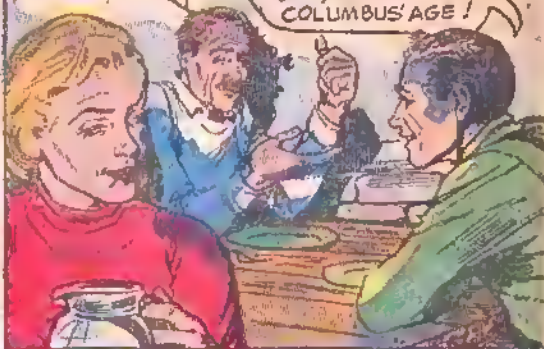
AGAIN THE FOGHORN SOUNDED THIS TIME THERE
WAS NO ECHO. THE BIG EYE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE
GLEAMED EVILLY INTO THE DARK... LIKE THE
PHOSPHORESCENT ORB OF SOME THIN-NECKED
MONSTER LOOKING VAINLY FOR SOMETHING...
LOOKING EVERYWHERE... SCOURING THE SEAS...
IN VAIN... IN VAIN...



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT BREAKFAST...

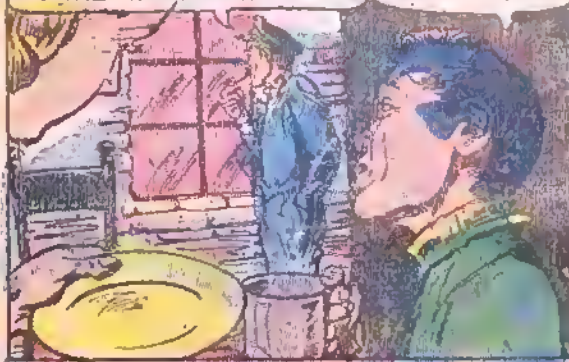
YOU WILL CALL ME AN
OLD FOOL, JUAN... BUT
I SWEAR THAT ECHO
WAS THAT OF A BEAST
ANSWERING THE
FOGHORN!

HA! HA! YOU ARE LIKE
ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT
MARINERS WHO BE-
LIEVED IN SEA SERPENTS
AND THE FLATNESS OF
THE WORLD! THIS IS
1953, SIR... NOT
COLUMBUS' AGE!



HAVE I NOT SAID SO MYSELF?
YET SOMETHING NAMELESS
FRIGHTENS ME, JUAN. IT'S A
PREMONITION. I FEAR THE
COMING OF DARK. WHEN THE
BIG EYE IN THE TOWER LIGHTS
UP AGAIN, WHEN THE LIGHT-
HOUSE VOICE SPEAKS AGAIN
TO THE WINDS OF THE NIGHT...

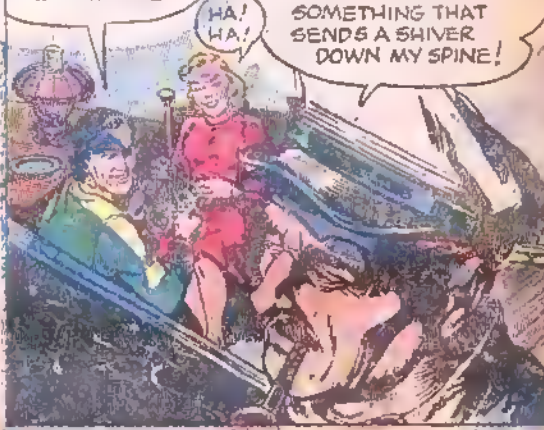
NONSENSE! YOU
LET YOUR IMAGI-
NATION RUN AWAY
WITH YOU! THE
TIME OF SEA-
MONSTERS IS GONE.
THERE IS NOTHING
TO FEAR, I
ASSURE YOU...



THAT NIGHT...

GOING UPSTAIRS
FOR A LOOK AT
YOUR
SEA MONSTER?

LAUGH ALL YOU PLEASE!
THIS IS NO LAUGHING
MATTER TO ME. I HAVE
HEARD SEA NOISES FOR
FIFTY YEARS. WHAT I
HEARD LAST NIGHT WAS
SOMETHING THAT
SENDS A SHIVER
DOWN MY SPINE!



LET THEM MOCK ME! I AM OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS NOT KNOWN... THAT MANY SECRETS REMAIN. DEAD SECRETS SCIENCE CAN NEVER EXPLAIN. HMMM... I'LL MOVE THE LIGHT AROUND..



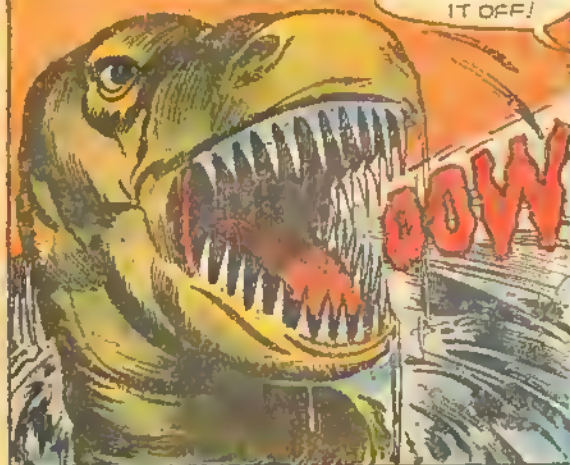
GASP! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!... IT'S SWIMMING. ... LIKE A VESSEL WITHOUT RIGGING! I'LL FIX THE BEAM ON IT...



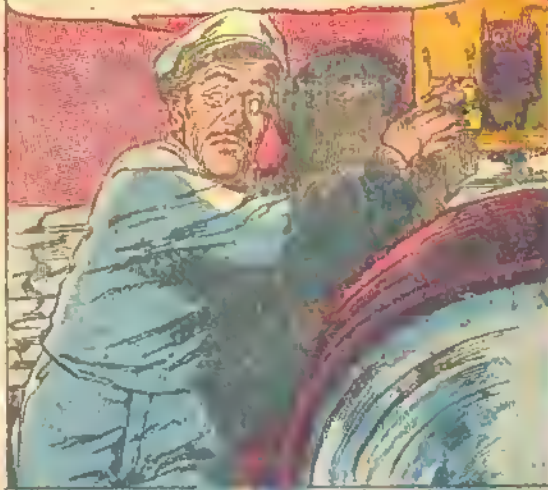
=GASP!=-



=GASP! IT'S A M-MONSTER! IT'S ANSWERING THE FOGHORN! I'VE GOT T-TO TURN IT OFF!



T-THERE! IT CAN'T FOLLOW ANYTHING NOW! NEITHER LIGHT NOR SOUND!



WHAT THE DELCE IS GOING ON? YOU'VE TURNED OFF THE LIGHT! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, SIR?

NOT WITH ME, JUAN! LOOK THERE! YOU WILL SEE WHETHER IT'S ALL BEEN MY IMAGINATION!



I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING OUT THERE WITH THE LIGHT OUT! NEITHER CAN THE SHIPS AT SEA! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS BEAM GOING TO PREVENT WRECKS! ... WE... =GASP!=-

YOU FOOL! YOU'VE SHOWN HIM WHERE THE LIGHT IS! **TURN IT OFF QUICK!**



T-TOO LATE! HE'S COMING FOR US! ROSA...HURRY! DOWN THE STAIRCASE!

I DIDN'T KNOW!...
...I DIDN'T THINK!...
...GASP!...

I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BEAST!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN LIVING
FOR CENTURIES IN THE DEPTHS
OF THE OCEAN!...ALONE...
NO COMPANIONS...NO SOUNDS!

THEN ONE NIGHT THE VIBRATIONS
OF THE FOGHORN MUST'VE
REACHED HIM! HE REMEMBERED
THE VOICE, SUBCONSCIOUSLY...
LIKE A MEMORY OF SOMETHING
AGES AGO! SOMETHING LONG
DEAD. HE TOOK THE FOGHORN'S
VOICE FOR ANOTHER BEAST,
CALLING TO HIM...



IN HIS STUPID MIND HE
THOUGHT THE TOWER WAS
THE NECK OF A BEAST!...
WITH THE ISLAND FOR A
BODY! LOOK! HE'S GOING
TO EMBRACE THE TOWER!

WE'VE GOT TO GET
AWAY! HE'LL
SMASH IT TO
BITS!...

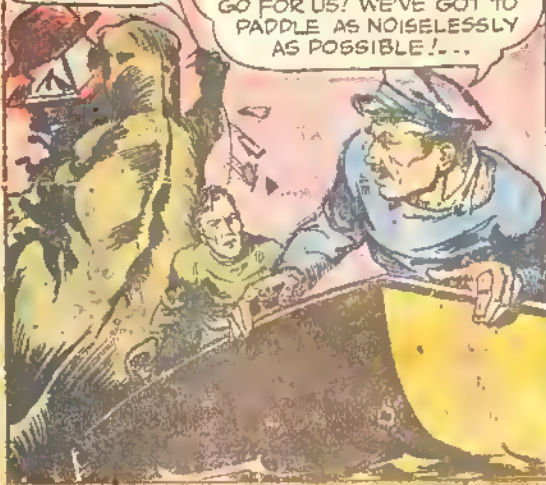


"HE'S GOING MAD! THERE'S NO
ANSWER FROM THE TOWER!"



HURRY! START
THE BOAT!

NO! WE CAN'T USE THE MOTOR!
HE'LL HEAR THE SOUND AND
GO FOR US! WE'VE GOT TO
PADDLE AS NOISELESSLY
AS POSSIBLE!...



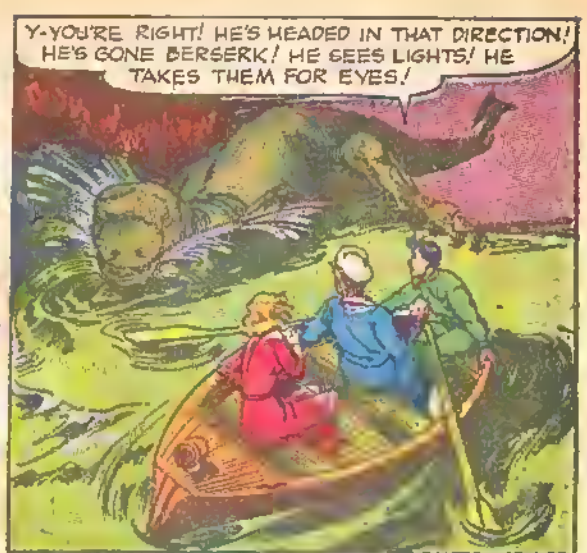
WE DIDN'T LEAVE
THE LIGHTHOUSE A
SECOND TOO SOON!





HE'S L-LOOKING THIS WAY, JUAN! HE SEES US!

I-I DON'T KNOW! IT MAY BE THE ISLAND OF SAN NOBLE HE SEES! ITS LIGHTS ARE TWINKLING IN THE DARK! THEY MAY HAVE ATTRACTED HIM!



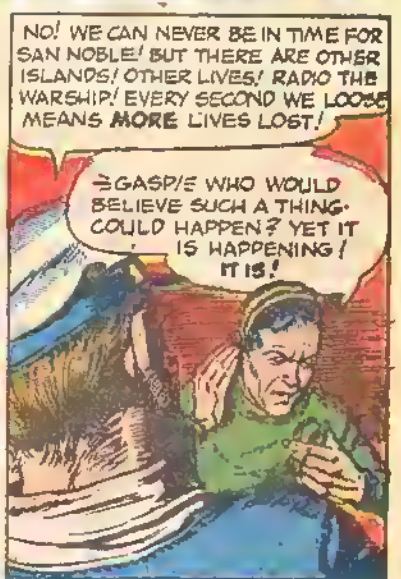
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S HEADED IN THAT DIRECTION! HE'S GONE BERSERK! HE SEES LIGHTS! HE TAKES THEM FOR EYES!



WHEN HE REACHES SAN NOBLE AND FINDS NO MONSTER THERE, HE'LL GO WILD! HE WILL TERRORIZE THE WHOLE ISLAND! HE'LL DESTROY HUMAN BEINGS BY THE HUNDREDS! AND WE CAN DO NOTHING!...



WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED! THERE WAS A BATTLESHIP REPORTED NEARBY! WE HAVE A SMALL RADIO! IF WE CAN ONLY CONTACT THE SHIP IN TIME!...



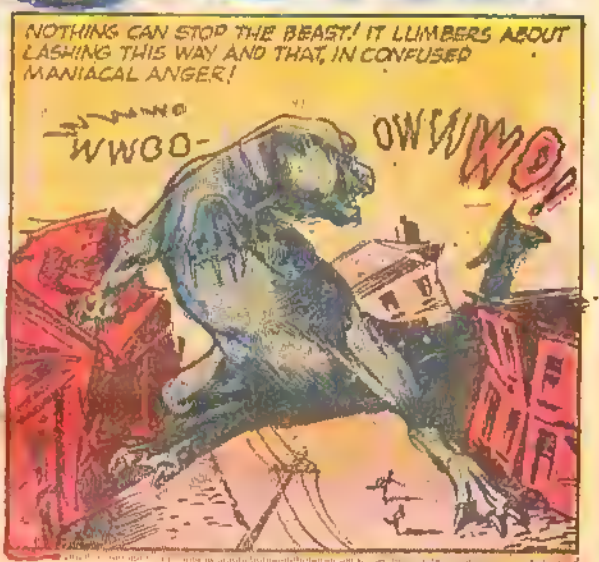
NO! WE CAN NEVER BE IN TIME FOR SAN NOBLE! BUT THERE ARE OTHER ISLANDS! OTHER LIVES! RADIO THE WARSHIP! EVERY SECOND WE LOOSE MEANS MORE LIVES LOST!

==GASP! WHO WOULD BELIEVE SUCH A THING COULD HAPPEN? YET IT IS HAPPENING! IT IS!



SHORTLY AFTER... AS THE BEHEMOTH REACHES SAN NOBLE...

YIPPEE!



NOTHING CAN STOP THE BEAST! IT LUMBERS ABOUT LASHING THIS WAY AND THAT, IN CONFUSED MANIACAL ANGER!

WWOOO- OW/WHO!

HOURS LATER, IN THE STRICKEN TOWN, THE MONSTER, SUDDENLY WHIRLS! HE SEES A GLEAM OF LIGHT FROM THE SEA! HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE...



IT IS THE CALL OF A FRIEND THAT VOICE! THE MONSTER JOYOUSLY RESPONDS...



AGAIN IT COMES, THAT FAMILIAR VOICE... AGAIN THE GLEAM OF LIGHT WORKS AS A LURE FOR THE LONELY MONSTER...



YOU SEE? I WAS RIGHT! THE MONSTER TOOK OUR FOGHORN FOR THE VOICE OF ANOTHER BEAST! HE TOOK THE GLEAM OF YOUR SEARCHLIGHT FOR ANOTHER MONSTER! LOOK HOW EAGERLY HE SWIMS TOWARD US!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT EAGERNESS RIGHT NOW! MASON! FIRE AT WILL!



HOLD YOUR FIRE! IT'S SINKING!



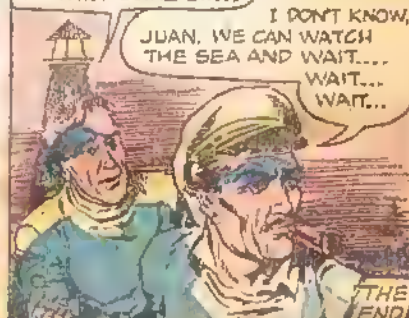
IT'S G-GOING DOWN! YOU KNOW... EVEN NOW... SEEING IT SINK... I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS THING HAPPENED... HOW COULD IT?



I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING... EXCEPT THAT I'M AFRAID... TERRIBLY AFRAID...

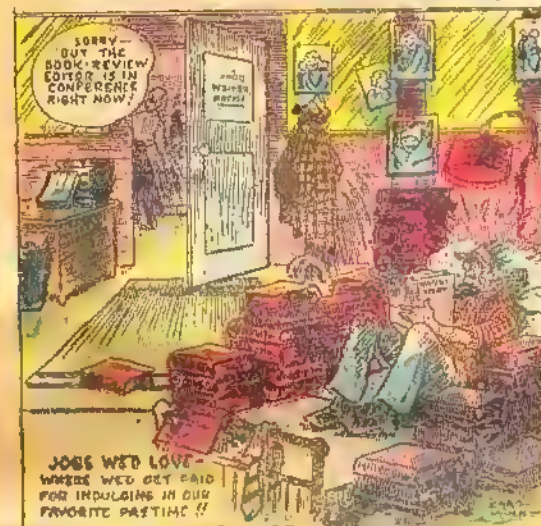
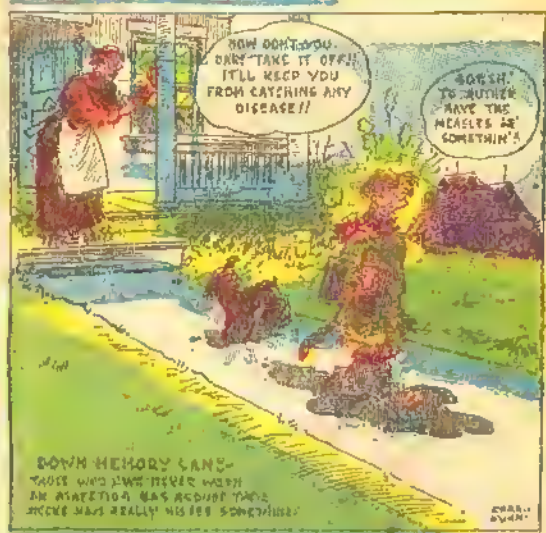
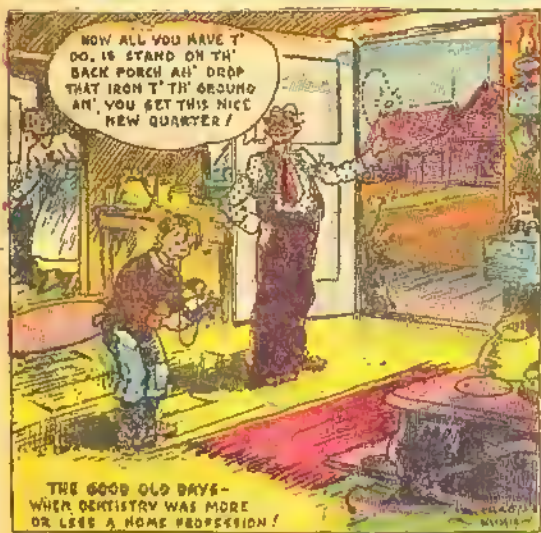
TWO MONTHS LATER, WHEN A NEW LIGHTHOUSE WAS BUILT... WHEN A NEW BEAM PASSED OVER THE WATER... AND A NEW FOGHORN GROANED INTO THE NIGHT...

WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHER MONSTERS? OTHER SERPENTS TO HEAR THE CALL OF THE FOGHORN? WHAT IF THEY COME UP...?



I DON'T KNOW, JUAN. WE CAN WATCH THE SEA AND WAIT... WAIT... WAIT... WAIT...

THE END



A
TALE OF
HORROR

DINKY!

HORROR STALKS AT NIGHT! HORROR WITH FANGED JAWS AND WOLFISH CLAWS! HORROR LUSTING FOR MURDER... LEERING FIENDSHPLY AT GOODNESS AND MERCY! PUT A HUNDRED HORRORS TOGETHER AND THEY SPELL THE NAME OF AN ARCH-KILLER.... **DINKY!**



THINGS STARTED WITH A
MATCH...

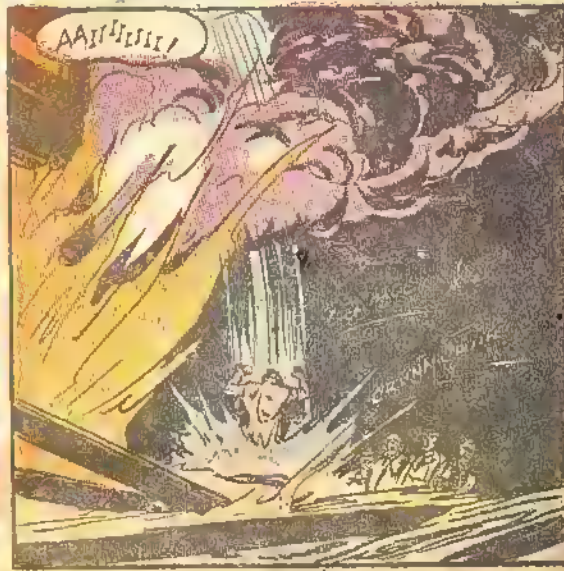
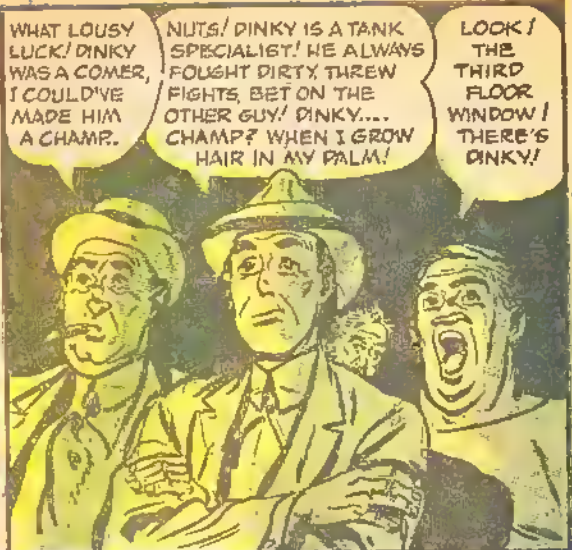
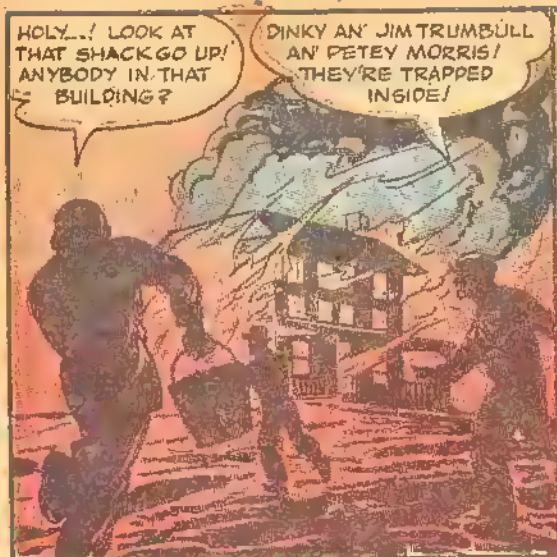


NOT THE KIND OF MATCH
THAT OCCURS IN THE PRIZE
RING, THE KIND OF MATCH
THAT BURNS.



A CARELESSLY THROWN
MATCH... AND TRAGEDY WAS
IN THE
MAKING!





T-THE WHOLE BUILDING'S GOIN' UP! JIM TRUMBULL AN' PETEY MORRIS...THEY'RE GONERS! AT LEAST DINKY GOT OUT ALIVE!

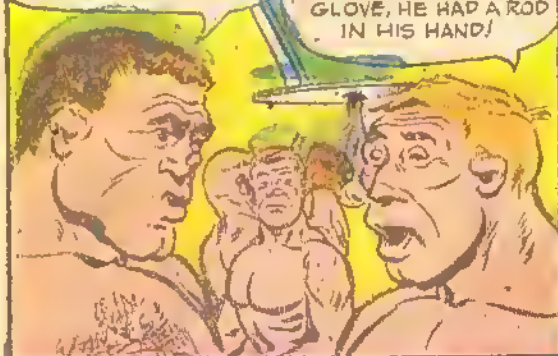
IS HE BETTER OFF? EVEN IF DINKY LIVES... HE'LL BE A CRIPPLE FOR LIFE!



A FEW DAYS LATER, DINKY'S ACCIDENT WAS THE TALK OF THE GYMS...

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A NICER GUY! DINKY WAS THE WORLD'S WORST! IT'S TIME FATE DISHED HIM A RABBIT PUNCH!

IF DINKY DIDN'T PUNCH LOW IN THE RING...HE PUNCHED LOW OUTSIDE IT! WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE A HORSESHOE IN HIS GLOVE, HE HAD A ROD IN HIS HAND!



MONTHS PASSED. DINKY LEWIS CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. OUTWARDLY, HE WAS BAD TO LOOK AT, AS ALWAYS, BUT THIS WAS NOTHING COMPARED WITH THE UGLINESS WITHIN HIM!

LOOK AT 'EM! CRUMBS! PALOOKAS! WHAT I FORGOT ABOUT RING FIGHTIN'! THEY'LL NEVER LEARN!



DINKY WAS NEVER A GENIUS! A THING LIKE THIS WILL DO SOMETHING TO HIS PEANUT BRAIN! TONIGHT COULD BE THE END OF DINKY THE PUNK...THE BEGINNING OF DINKY THE WHAT?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL BEFORE HE'S WORM MEAT!



HE WASN'T NO CLARK GABLE TO BEGIN WITH! NOW THEY SAY LOOKIN' AT HIM RUNS A SHIVER DOWN YER SPINE!

KICKS MORAN, HIS MAN-AGER, GAVE HIM A JOB AROUND THE CAMP FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE. IF I WAS KICK, I WOULDN'T WANT THAT CRUMB AROUND ME! HE'LL MAKE TROUBLE WHEREVER HE GOES!



BUT I AIN'T FORGETTIN' IT WAS A PUG LIKE THEM WHO TOSSED THE MATCH THAT BURNED DOWN THE BUILDIN' I WAS SLEEPIN' IN! IT WAS A PUNK LIKE THEM WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY! A LOUSY CRIPPLE!



BUT I'LL GET EVEN! THEY WON'T WALK WHILE DINKY CRAWLS! THEY WON'T EARN DOLLARS WHILE DINKY EARNS PENNIES! I'LL MAKE THE SAME MESS OUTA THEM THEY MADE OUTA ME!



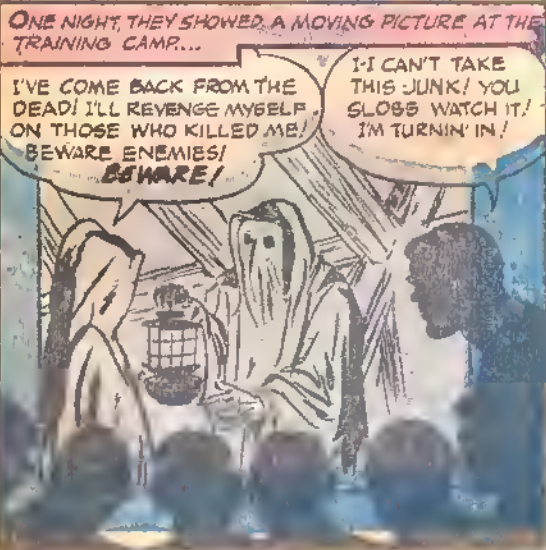
SOME DAY, I'LL SCARE THE LIVIN' GUTS OUTA THEM! I AIN'T EATIN' MY HEART OUT FOREVER! I'D RATHER EAT THEIRS!



ONE NIGHT, THEY SHOWED A MOVING PICTURE AT THE TRAINING CAMP...

I'VE COME BACK FROM THE DEAD! I'LL REVENGE MYSELF ON THOSE WHO KILLED ME! BEWARE ENEMIES! **BEWARE!**

I-I CAN'T TAKE THIS JUNK! YOU SLOSS WATCH IT! I'M TURNIN' IN!



YOU BIG, OVERGROWN CRUMB! ...IT'S ONLY A PICTURE! THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!

LAUGH ALL YOU LIKE, BUT THIS GHOST-GHOUL STUFF GIVES ME NIGHTMARES!

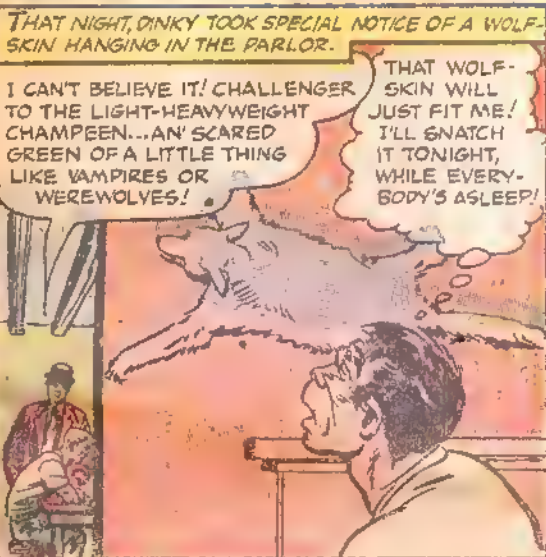
NIGHTMARES, EH? THAT'S INTERESTIN'!



THAT NIGHT, DINKY TOOK SPECIAL NOTICE OF A WOLF-SKIN HANGING IN THE PARLOR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! CHALLENGER TO THE LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPEEN...AN' SCARED GREEN OF A LITTLE THING LIKE VAMPIRES OR WEREWOLVES!

THAT WOLF-SKIN WILL JUST FIT ME! I'LL SNATCH IT TONIGHT, WHILE EVERYBODY'S ASLEEP!

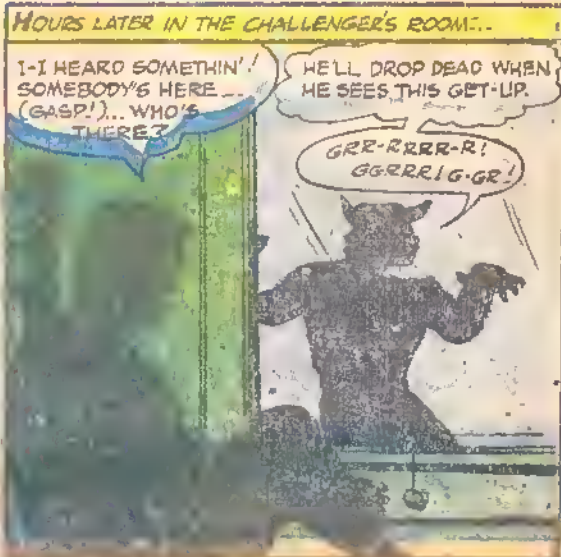


HOURS LATER IN THE CHALLENGER'S ROOM...

I-I HEARD SOMETHIN'! SOMEBODY'S HERE... (GASP!)... WHO'S THERE?

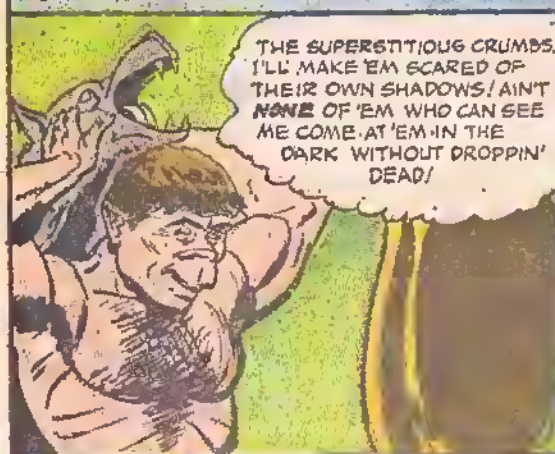
HE'LL DROP DEAD WHEN HE SEES THIS GET-UP.

GR-RRRR-R! GGRRR! G-GR!





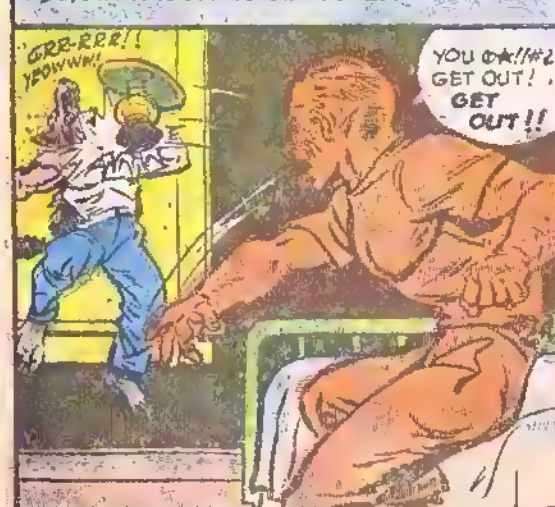
NOBODY WAS HAPPY BUT THE WINNER AND DINKY LEWIS, WHO WENT GLOATINGLY ABOUT HIS BUSINESS OF SCARING THE SKIN OFF EVERY BOXER WITHIN REACH...



SO DINKY LEWIS WENT ABOUT SYSTEMATICALLY RESTORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN HIS TWISTED SOUL AND THOSE WHO WERE LUCKIER THAN HE WAS...

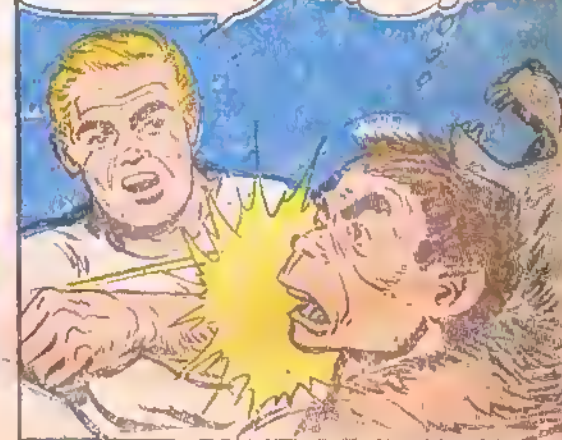


ONE NIGHT, BREAKING INTO THE ROOM OF A NEW PUG, DINKY RAN INTO DIFFULTIES!



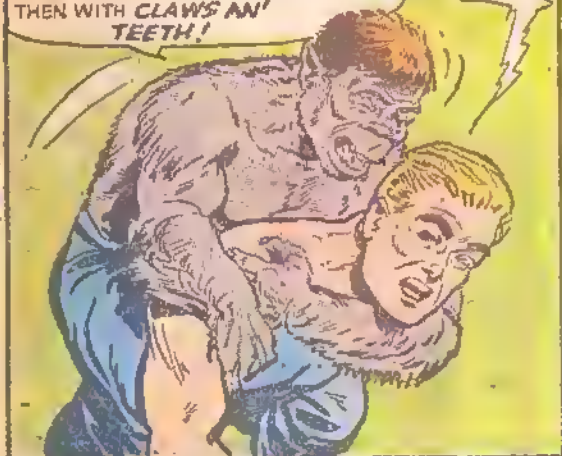
(GASP!) DINKY! IT'S YOU! YOU GOT A COSTUME ON! ... YOU WERE SCARING THE GUYS!

(GASP!)... IF THIS GETS OUT I'M GUNK! I GOTTA STOP HIM!



(GASP?)... IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM... A LOUSY CRIPPLE! BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT! IF NOT WITH GLOVES, THEN WITH CLAWS AN' TEETH!

EEEEAAA!



AS DINKY SANK HIS FANGS INTO THE FIGHTER'S NECK, A SURGE OF EXULTANCY AND POWER MOVE THROUGH HIS BODY! HE BECAME AN ANIMAL, DRUNK WITH THE LUST TO KILL!



AS THE MUTILATED BODY UNDER HIM STIFFENED AND RELAXED, DINKY ROSE. NO LONGER DID DINKY LOOK LIKE HIMSELF!



BUT A STRANGER THING HAPPENED WHEN HE GOT BACK TO HIS ROOM! IN A TWINKLE OF THE EYE, THE MARKS OF THE BEAST DISAPPEARED!



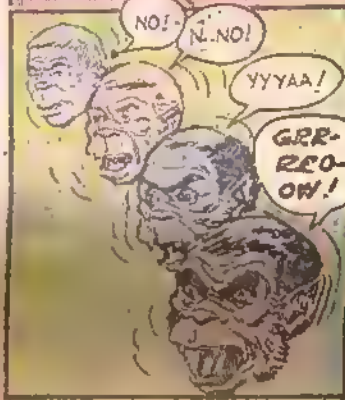
WILD ANIMALS WERE BLAMED FOR THAT MURDER AND THE CYCLE OF MURDERS THAT FOLLOWED... INSTINCTIVELY DINKY HATED A WINNER AND IT WAS THE WINNERS HE MARKED FOR THE WEREWOLF... HIMSELF... UNTIL ONE NIGHT, ONE OF THE BOXERS DINKY WAS ATTENDING BEGAN TO SCORE AN UPSET...

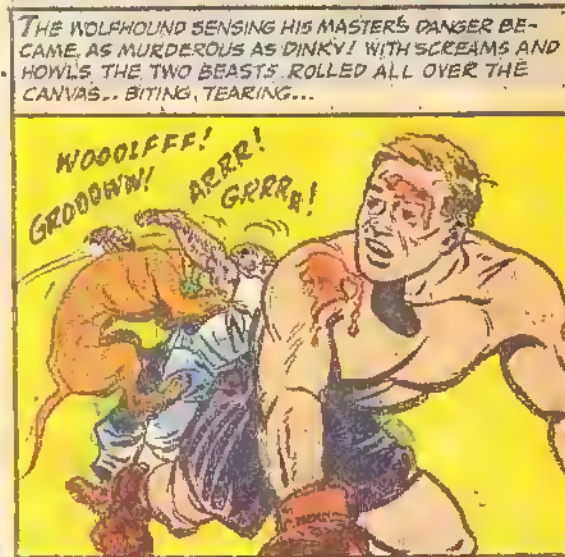
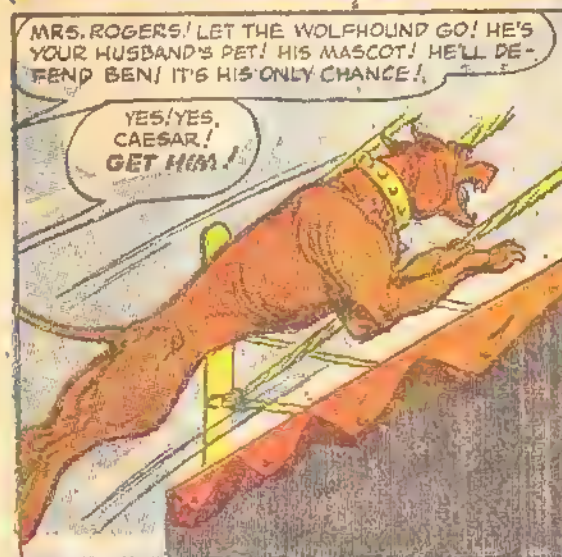
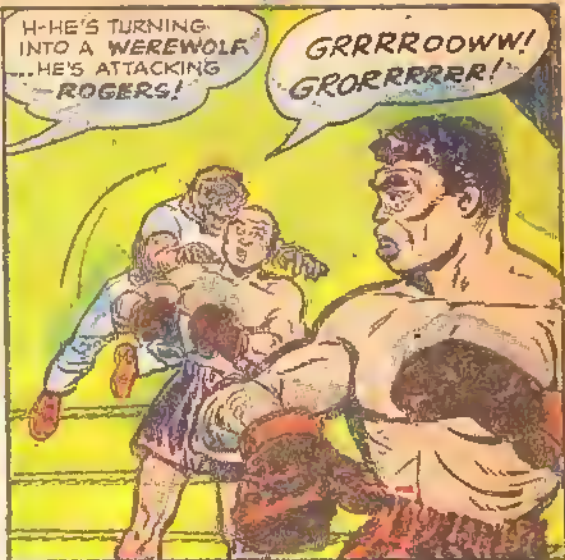
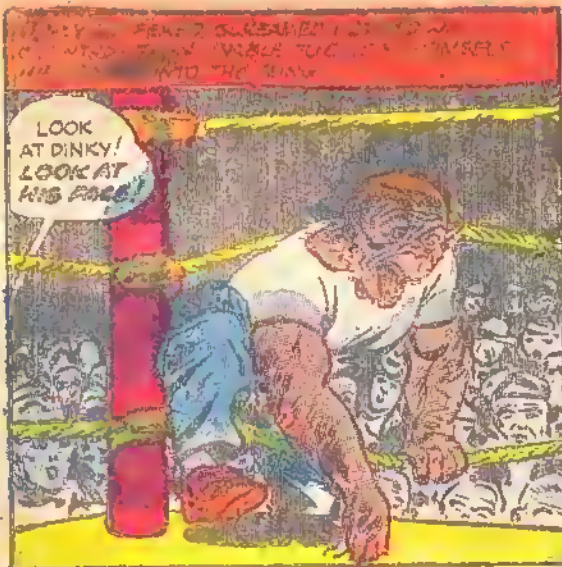
AGAIN THE UNDERDOG LANDS... AGAIN AND AGAIN! THE CHAMPION STAGGERS! WHAT A BOXER THIS ROGERS IS!

BOXER? THAT SHOULD BE ME IN THERE, SCORIN' THE UPSET! THE CRUMB! ROGER IS THERE BECAUSE HE AIN'T CRIPPLED LIKE ME!



WITH EVERY PUNCH, DINKY BECAME MORE TWISTED WITH HATRED AND JEALOUSY! HE BEGAN TO FEEL EVERY PUNCH LANDED, SO COMPLETELY DID HE PROJECT HIMSELF INTO THE FRAY





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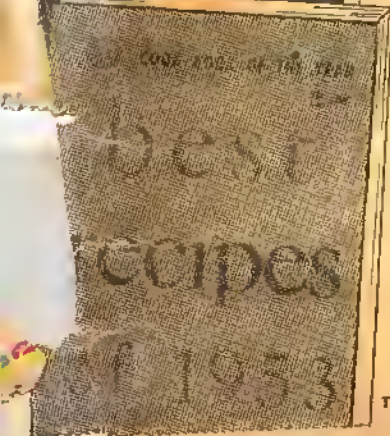
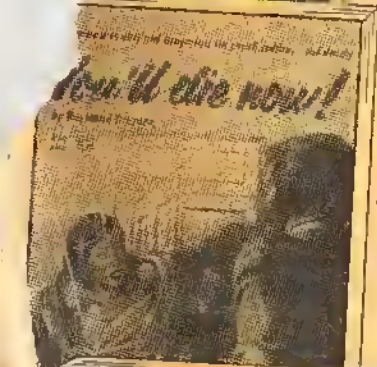
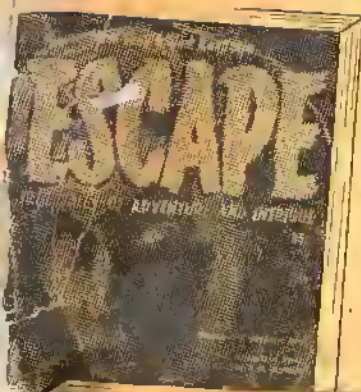
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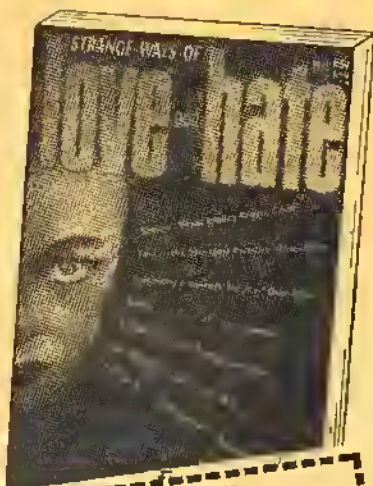


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